In case the charges of the complaints are substantiated, the State Government take suitable action under the law. Figures regarding number of corrupt officials booked for action are not maintained by the Government of India.

BIS Hallmark Scheme on Ornaments/Jewellery

5302. SHRI ABANI ROY.Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(d) whether according to a survey conducted by BIS it has been found that most of the jewellers in the country are cheating the consumers in sale of ornaments etc.;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to compulsorily enforce BIS Hallmark Scheme on ornaments/jewellery sold by jewellers in the country; and

(a) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) recently conducted a survey in some of the major cities of the country. Out of 120 samples of jewellery tested, only 14 samples were found to be of the claimed purity.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration, as at present conditions are not appropriate.

Unutilized Foodgrains of FCI Godowns

5303. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that substantial quantity of foodgrains remain unutilized in the FCI godowns; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider revision of issue price of foodgrains to increase offtake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN):(a)Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice for Public Distribution System for Above Poverty Line (APL) families have already been lowered by Rs. 100 per quintal, both for wheat and rice, with effect from 1 -4-2002 to increase the offtake of foodgrains. The revised CIPs for wheat and rice for APL families are Rs. 510 per quintal and Rs. 730 per quintal respectively.

Increase in Offtake of Foodgrains

5304. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central foodgrains stocks are far in excess of the minimum buffer stock norms creating problem of abundance;

(b) if so, the details thereof with State/Circle-wise breakup of the food stocks;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been poor offtake of foodgrains under PDS and TPDS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the measures taken to increase the offtake of foodgrains by the States as also the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the food stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The stock position of rice and wheat held in Central Pool as on 1 -4-2002 as compared to buffer stocking norms of foodgrains of the corresponding period was as under:

(Figures in lakh tonnes)*

Commodity	Stocks	Buffer Norms	Surplus stocks
Rice	249.12	118.00	131.12
Wheat	260.39	40.00	220.39
TOTAL	509.51	158.00	351.51

*('Provisional)

(b) Stock position of rice and wheat held by FCI and State agencies, State-wise, as on 1-4-2002 is at Statement-I (See below).